

Message Text

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - NIXON'S MOSCOW TRIP

REF: WIRELESS FILE EPF-17

1. OF THE 12 LEADING CHINESE MORNING PAPERS REVIEWED, FIVE GAVE FRONTPAGE HEADLINE TREATMENT TO PRESIDENT NIXON'S ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW; FOUR CARRIED THE NEWS AS THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEM OF WORLD NEWS BUT NOT ON THE FRONTPAGE; THREE, INCLUDING TWO TOP PRO-PRC DAILIES, GAVE IT SECONDARY COVERAGE. MOST HEADLINES NOTED THAT NUCLEAR ARMS LIMITATION IS ON THE AGENDA. NO ENGLISH PAPERS COMMENTED THOUGH THE TRIP WAS FRONT-PAGE NEWS.

2. EDITORIALY, THREE PRO-PRC PAPERS COMMENTED THAT THE DIM VIEW HELD BY THE WEST, INCLUDING WASHINGTON, CONCERNING THE U.S.-SOVIET SUMMIT IS WELL JUSTIFIED, WHILE THE OPTIMISTIC ATMOSPHERE WHICH MOSCOW IS TRYING TO CREATE IS FALSE.

3. THE CONSERVATIVE WAH KIU YAT PO ALSO TOOK A DIM VIEW OF THE SUMMIT, POINTING OUT THAT WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE U.S. CONGRESS AN AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION

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WOULD BE MEANINGLESS, AND THAT IN SUCH AREAS AS SALT,

EUROPEAN SECURITY AND MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTION NIXON MUST BEAR IN MIND THE WARINESS OF AMERICA'S ATLANTIC ALLIES. THE PAPER DID NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT U.S.-SOVIET COOPERATION IN SPACE TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE, ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE AND MARINE RESEARCH IS PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY.

4. THE INDEPENDENT SING PAO, REFERRING TO THE WARM WELCOME ACCORDED NIXON IN MOSCOW, SAID: "ITS (THE SOVIET UNION'S) PURPOSE IS TO PROMOTE DETENTE WITH THE U.S.- ACTUALLY DETENTE WITH THE ENTIRE WESTERN CAMP. ONCE FREED OF WORRIES ABOUT THE EUROPEAN SITUATION, THE SOVIET UNION WILL BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON COPING WITH COMMUNIST CHINA IN THE EAST."

5. THE PRO-ROC EXPRESS PREDICTED THAT, ARMED WITH THE RECENT MIDEAST DISENGAGEMENT AND THE OTTAWA DECLARATION, NIXON'S TRIP WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.
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